Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A card-shaped data carrier, comprising at least two or more layers into which visually readable information is introduced in the form of a change in the optical property on the basis of a material change effected irreversibly by a laser beam while preserving the surface of the card-shaped data carrier,

wherein each layer has a different absorption capacity for at least one wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$), and

wherein the absorption capacity of at least one layer for at least one wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$) is at least partly reduced as a result of the laser radiation.

2. (Previously Presented) A card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein each layer has colored pigments which, under the influence of laser radiation with the wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$), at least partly lose their absorption capacity for the wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 1, comprising

at least two layers each of which has a respectively different absorption capacity for a different wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$, $\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$, $\lambda_3 \pm \Delta\lambda_3$),

the absorption capacity of a first layer for a first wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$) being at least partly reduced under the influence of the laser radiation of the first wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$), and

the absorption capacity of a second layer for a second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$) being at least partly reduced under the influence of the laser radiation of the second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$).

5. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the layers is at least partly transparent to visible light (400 nm to 800 nm).

6. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layers whose absorption capacity is reduced under the influence of the laser radiation are arranged on a white substrate layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein a covering layer that is transparent to visible light is arranged over the layers whose absorption capacity is reduced under the influence of the laser radiation.

8. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 2, wherein the layers are plastic films laminated one over another, in which the colored pigments are contained.

9. (Previously Presented) The card-shaped data carrier as claimed in claim 2, wherein the layers are varnish layers arranged one above another, in which the colored pigments are contained.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for applying information to card-shaped data carriers, the card-shaped data carrier having at least one layer into which visually readable information is introduced in the form of a change in an optical property on the basis of a material change effected irreversibly by a laser beam while preserving the surface of the card-shaped data carrier, comprising

the provision of a card-shaped data carrier which has two or more layers which have a respectively different absorption capacity for at least one wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$), and

the absorption capacity of at least one layer for at least one wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$) is at least partly reduced as a result of the laser radiation, and

acting on this layer of the card-shaped data carrier with the laser radiation, in order to reduce the absorption capacity of this layer for the wavelength ($\lambda \pm \Delta\lambda$).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10 comprising

the provision of a card-shaped data carrier which has at least a first layer and a second layer each of which has a respectively different absorption capacity for a different wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$, $X_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$, $\lambda_3 \pm \Delta\lambda_3$),

the absorption capacity of the first layer for a first wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$) being at least partly reduced under the influence of laser radiation of the first wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$),

the absorption capacity of the second layer for a second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$) being at least partly reduced under the influence of the laser radiation of the second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$),

acting on the first layer of the card body with laser radiation of the wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$), in order to reduce the absorption capacity of this layer for the wavelength ($\lambda_1 \pm \Delta\lambda_1$), and

acting on the second layer of the card body with laser radiation of the second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$), in order to reduce the absorption capacity of this layer for the second wavelength ($\lambda_2 \pm \Delta\lambda_2$).

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein each layer has colored pigments, and the layers are plastic films laminated one over another, in which the colored pigments are contained.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein each layer has colored pigments, and the layers are varnish layers arranged one above another, in which the colored pigments are contained.